

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the following paragraphs of the specification.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 1, with the following:

~~Description~~

~~Optical Reference Standard~~

OPTICAL REFERENCE STANDARD

PRIORITY STATEMENT

This application is the national phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of PCT International Application No. PCT/SE2004/001813 which has an International filing date of December 9, 2004, which designated the United States of America, and which claims priority on Swedish Patent Application No. SE 0303338-8, filed December 11, 2003, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND

Field

~~The present invention~~Example embodiments relates to an optical reference standard and in particular to an optical reference standard usable in the calibration of an optical analysis instrument.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 9, with the following:

Description of the Related Art

Optical reference standards are widely used in optical spectroscopy in order to ensure the correct performance of an analysis instrument. This is typically achieved through the comparison of measurements of optical properties of the optical reference standard performed on one instrument (so called 'slave' instrument) with similar measurements performed on the same optical reference standard by a reference instrument (so called 'master' instrument) of the same type. Moreover it is known to carry out similar comparative measurements between slave instruments or on the master instrument using the same optical reference standard for each measurement of the comparison.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 12, with the following paragraph:

Accordingly, there is provided an optical reference standard including an optical reference material, wherein the optical reference material may include a binder and a cereal formed into a matrix to fixedly hold an amount of water, the reference material being constituted with the binder, the cereal and the water present in amounts to provide the reference standard with desired spectral, mechanical and temporal characteristics ~~as described in and characterised by the present claim 1.~~ The matrix formed by one or both of the binder and the cereal, which in the present context

includes mixtures of different cereal crops, can hold the water spatially fixed so as to provide a reference standard, particularly for wet feed or foodstuffs, having enhanced mechanical and temporal stability.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 4, with the following paragraph:

Brief Description of the Drawings

These and other advantages will become apparent from a consideration of the following description of a preferred embodiment that is made with reference to the accompanying figures, of which:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 16, with the following paragraph:

Detailed Description of Example Embodiments

Considering now FIG. 1, an exemplary embodiment of an optical reference standard 2 is illustrated and comprises a housing 4 having a surface 6, at least a portion of which comprises a window 8 of material transparent to the wavelengths of interest. When used in the calibration of a reflectance type optical instrument then this single window 8 will be sufficient. However, when the reference 2 is employed in the calibration of a transmission type optical instrument then a second window (not shown), usually located in a surface of the housing 4 opposing the surface 6, may be included. Indeed, it will be apparent to the person skilled in

the art that the configuration and composition of windows in the housing may be non-inventively adapted depending on the nature of the optical instrument to be calibrated.